

T. K. to the Reader. G. STEEVENS.

This little booke Bevvare the Cat
moste pleasantly compil'd:
In time obscured was and so,
since that hath been erilde.

Erilde, because perchance at first,
it shewed the toys and dzifts:
Of such as then by wiles and willes,
maintained Popish shifts.

Shifts, such as those in such a time,
delighted so to vse:
Wherby ful many simple soules,
they did ful soze abuse.

Abuse: yea sure and that with spight
when as the Cat gan tel:
Of many pranks of popish præsts,
bothe foolish mad and fel.

Fel sure & vaine, if iudgement right
appære to be in place:
And so as fel in pleasant wise,
this fixton shewes their grace.

Grace: nay sure vngraciousnes,
of such and many mo:

A y.

Which

To the Reader

Which may be tolde in these our daies
to make vs laugh also.

Also to laugh: nay rather weep,
to see such shifts now vsed:
And that in euery sorte of men,
true vertue is abused.

Abused: yea, and quite downe cast,
let vs be sure of that:
And therfore now as hath been said,
I say beware the Cat.

The Cat ful pleasantly wil shew,
some sleights that now are wrought
And make some laugh, which vnto
to be constrainde are loght. (mirth

Lothe: yea, for ouer passing græf,
that much bereues their minde:
For such disorder as in states,
of euery sorte they finde.

Finde: yea, who can now bolste but
the Cat wil him disclose: (that
Therfore in midst of mirth (I say)
beware the Cat to those.

Vale.



TO THE RIGHT VVOR

Myselfe Esquire John Pung,
grace and helth.

I Haue penned for your maister-
ships pleasure, one of the stories
which M. Streamer tolde the last
Christmas, and whiche you so faine
would haue heard reported by M. fer-
rers himselfe and although I be vna-
ble to pen or speak the same so plea-
santly as he coule: yet haue I so neer-
ly vsed bothie the order and words
of him that spake them, which is not
the least vertue of a reporter, that I
dout not but that he and M. willot shal
in the reading think they hear M.
Streamer speak, and he him self in the
like actiō, shal dout whether he spea-
keth or readeth. I haue deuided his or-
ration into three parts, and set thargu-
mēt before thē and an instructiō after
them with such notes as might be ga-
thered therof. so making it book like
and intituled Beware the Cat. But be-
cause I dout whether M. Stremer wil
be contented that other men ployve
with his oxen (I mean penne suche
things as he speaketh) which perhaps

A, iij.

hee

The Epistle.

he would rather doo him self, to haue
as hee deserueth the glory of bothe:
therfore I besech you to learne his
minde heerin. And if he agre it pas in
such sort: yet that he peruse it before
the printing, and amend it if in any
point I haue mistaken him. I pray
you likewise to ask M Ferrers his iud-
gement heerin, and shew him that the
cure of the great plague of M Strea-
mers translatiō out of the Arabique,
which he sent me from Margets, shal-
be imprinted as soon as I may conue-
niētly. And if I shal perceiue by your
triall that M. Streamer allow my en-
deuours in this kinde: I wil heer after
(as Plato did by socrates) pē out such
things of the rest of our Christmas cō-
municatiōs as shalbe to his great glo-
ry, and no lesse pleasure to all thē that
desire such kindes of knowledge. in
the mean vvhile i beseech you to ac-
cept my good wil and learn to beware
the Cat. So shall you not only per-
form that i seek: but also please
the almightie who alwayes
preserue you

Amen.

Yours to his power, G. B.

The argument.



I chaunced that at Christmas last, I was at Court with Maister Ferrers then maister of the Kings maiesties pastimes, about setting forth of certain Interlubes, which for y^e Kings recreation we had deuised & were in learning. In which time among many other exercises among our selues: we vsed nightly at our lodging to talke of sundry things for the furtherance of such offices, wherein eche man as then serued, for which purpose it pleased Maister Ferrers to make me his bedfellowe, and vpon a Ballet cast vpon the rushes in his owne Chamber to lodge Maister Willot and Maister Streamer, the one his Astronomer: the other his Diuine. And among many other things to long to rehearse: it hapned on a night (which I think was the twenty eight of December) after that M. Ferrers was come from the Court, and in bed: there fel a controuerisie between maister Streamer (who with Maister Willot had already slept their first sleep) and mee that was newly come vnto bed, the effect wherof was whether Birds and beasts had reasō, the occasion therof was this. I had heard that the Kings Players were learning a play of Esops Crowe, wherein the most part of the actors were birds, the device wherof I discommended, saying it was not Comickall to make either speechlesse things to speake: or brutish things to comen resonably. And although in a tale it be sufferable to immagin and tel of some thing

The argument.

thing by them spoken or reasonably doon
(which kinde Glope lawdably vsed) yet it
was vncomely (said I) and without exam-
ple of any authour to bring them in liuely
parsonages to sprake, doo, reason, and al-
lege authorites out of authours. M. Stre-
mer my Lordes Duuche, hearing more di-
uine in this point the I was ware of, held
the contrary parte, affirming that beasts
and foules haue reason, and that asmuch
as men, yea and in some points more. M.
Ferrers him self and his Astronomer, wa-
ked with our talke and harkned to vs, but
would take parte on neither side. And whe
M. Stremer had for prooffe of his asser-
tion declared many things of Elephants
that walked vppon cords, Hedghogs that
knew alwayes what wether would come.

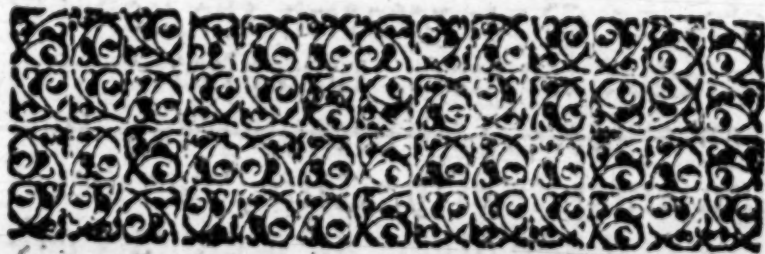
Foxes and Dogges that after they had
been all night a brode killing Geese and
Sheep, would come home in the morning
and put their necks into their collers.

Parats that bewailed their keepers death.
Swalowes that with Sellenidine open
their yung ones eyes, & an hundred things
more which I denyed to come of reason,
and to be but naturall kindely actions, al-
lodging for my prooffe authoritie of mooste
grauie and learned Philosophers. Wel
quoth maister Stremer I knowe what I
knowe, and I speak not onely what by
hearsay of some Philosophers I knowe;
but what I my self haue prooued. Why?
queth I then, haue you prooffe of beasts &
fowles reason? Yea quoth he I haue herd
them and vnderstand them bothe speak
and reason aswel as I hear and vnder-
stand

The argument.

stand you. At this M. Ferrers laughed;
but I remembzng what I had red in Al:
bertus woordes, thought their might be so:
what more then I did knowe, wherfore I
asked him what beasts oz fowles he had
heard, and where and when? At this hee
paused awhile, and at last said. If that I
thought you could be content. to hear me,
and wou: any interruptiō til I haue doon
to mark what I say: I would tel you such a
story of one peece of myne owne experime
ting, as should bothe make you wonder
and put you out of dout concerning this
matter, but this I promise you a fore if I
doo tel it. that as soon as any man curiously
interrupteth mee: I will leaue of & not
speak one woord more. When we had pro:
mised quietly to heare: he turning

him self so in his bed as we
might best heare him,
said as followeth.



*The first parte of Maister
Streamers Oration.*



*Being lodged (as
I thak him I haue been
often) at a frēds house
of mine, which moze
cowmish within then
garish wout, standing
at Saint Martins lane end, and han-
geth part vppon the towne wall that
is called Alders gate, either of one Al-
derich or els of Elders, that is to say,
auncient men of y Citty which among
them builded it, as Bishops did Bish-
ops gate, or els of eldern trēs, whiche
perchaunce as they do in the gardins
now there about. So while the cōmon
there was vacant: grew abundantly
in the same place where the gate was
after builded, and called therof Eldern
gate, as Newgate took the name of
the fēld without it, which hath been a
very moze. Or els because it is y most
auncient gate of the Citty, was therof
in respect of y other, as Newgate cal-
led the eldergate. Or els as Ludgate
taketh y name of Lud who builded it,
so mooste parte of Heraldes (I knowe)
will*

*why All
ders gate
was so na-
med.*

*Bishops
builded Bi-
shops gate*

*why moze
gate.*

*why New
gate.*

The first parte

will soonest assēt that Aluredus builded this, but they are deceiued. For he and his wife Algay builded Algate, which therof taketh the name, as Criplegate both of a Cripple, who begged so much in his life (as put to the Silver wether cock which he stole from Powles Steele) after his death builded it.

why Ludes gate.

why All gate.

why Crippl gate.

Powles wether Cock was Silver

But wherof soeuer this gate Alder, gate took the name (which logeth chesly to hystoryers to knowe) at my freendes house which (as I said) standeth so neer that it is ouer it, I lay oftē times and that for sundry causes. Sometime for lack of other lodging, and sometime as while my Greeke Alphabets were in printing, to see that it might be truly corrected. And sure it is a shame for all yung men that they be no more studious in the tinges, but the world is now come to that passe, that if hee can prate a little Latin, & handle a Racket and a pair of firsquare bowles: he shall sooner obtain any liuing then the best learned in a whole Citie, which is the cause that learning is so dispised, and bagagical things so much advanced.

Against yung mens negligence

Against vnlawful games.

While I lay at the foresaid house for the causes aforesaid: I was lodged in a Chamber

Beware the Cat.

God pla:
geth abho:
mination

Evill spirits
live by the
saour of
mans blood

Chamber hard by the Printing house,
which had a faire bay window open-
ing in the Garden, the earth wherof is
almost as high as S. Annes Church
top which standeth therby. At the other
end of the Printing house as you en-
ter in, is a side dore and 19. or 20. steps
which go vp to the Leads of the Gate,
wheras sosome quarters of men (which
is a lothely & abhominable sight) do
stand vp vpon Poles. I call it abhomi-
nable because it is not only against na-
ture: but against Scripture. For God
commanded by Moyses, that after the
Sun went down: all such as were han-
ged or otherwise put to death should be
buried, lest if the Sun saw them the
next day: his wrath should come vpon
them and plague them, as he hath don
this and many other Realmes for the
like transgressio. And I marvel where
men haue learned it, or for what cause
they do it, except it be to feed & please
the Devils. For sure I beleue y some
spirits Misanthropi or Molochitus.
who liued by y saour of mas blood did
after their sacrifices failed, in whiche
men were slaine and offered vnto the
put into butcherly heathen tirats hedz
to

The first parte

to mangle and bolle chzisten transgre-
ssors, & to set vp their quarters for the
to feed vpon. And therfore I would coun-
saile all mē to bury or burn all execrated
bodies and refrain frō makig such ab-
hominable sacrifice, as I haue oftē seen
with Hauens or rather deuils feeding
vpon them in this forsaid Leads. In
the which euery night many Cats as-
sembled, and there made such a noyse
that I could not sleep for them.

Good gost-
ly counsaile
of Maister
Streamer.

Wherfore on a time I was sitting
by the fire with certain of the house: I
told them what a noyse & what a wat-
ling the Cats had made there y night
before from ten a clock til one, so that
neither I could sleep nor study for the.
And by meanes of this introduction: we
fel in cōmunication of Cats. And some
affirming as I do now, (but I was a-
gainst it then) that they had vndersta-
ding, for confirmation wherof one of
the seruants tolde this story.

A wise man
may in some
things cha-
nge his o-
pinion.

Ther was in my countrie (quoth he)
a man (the fellow was bozne in Staff-
ord shire) that had a yung Cat which
he had brought vp of a kitling & would
nightly dally and play with it. And on
a time as he rode through Kāk wood,

A cat spake
to a man in
Rank wood
about

Beware the Cat.

about certain busines, a Cat (as hee thought) leaped out of a bush before him and called him twice or thrise by his name, but because he made noe answer, nor spake (for hee was so afraid that hee could not) he spake to him plainly twice or thrise these words following. Commend mee vnto Titton Tatton, and to Pus thy Catton, and tel her that Grimmalkin is dead. This done shee went her way, and the man went forward about his busines. And after that he was returned home, in an evening sitting by the fire with his wife and his householde: he tolde of his aduenture in the wood, and when he had tolde them all the Cats message: his Cat which had harkned vnto the tale, looked vpon him sadly and at the last said. And is Grimmalkin dead then farewell Dame, & therewith went her way and was neuer seen after. When this tale was done: another of the company which had been in Yreland asked this fellowe where this thing, which hee had tolde happned, hee answered that hee could not tel wel, how be it as hee collected not past xl. yeeres for his mother knew bothe the man and

A wonderful wit of a Cat.

The first parte

and the woman which ought the Cat
that the message was sent vnto.

Sure quoth the other, then it may wel
be, for about the same time as I heard
a like thing hapned in Yreland where

if I coniecture not amisse, Grimalkin
of whom you spake, was slain. *Grimalkin was
slain in Ire-
land.*

For quoth I, I pray you how so? I wil
tel you Maister Streamer (quoth hee)

that which was toulde mee in Yreland
and which I haue til now, so litle credi-

ted that I was ashamed to reporte it,
but hearing that I heare now, and cal-

ling to minde mine owne experience
when it was: I doe so litle misdout it,
that I think I neuer tolde, nor yone
der.

uer heard a more likely tale.

While I was in Yreland in the time
that Mackmorro & all the rest of the

wilde Lords were the kings enemies
what time also mortall warre was be-
tween the Filzhariles & the Prior, and
Conent of the Abbay of Tintern, who
counted them the Kings friends & sub-
jects, whose neighbour was Cayr Ma-
cart a wilde Irish man, then the kings
enemy, and one which dayly made in-
rodes into the countie of Vvashford,
and burned such Townes and caried
away

*Civil warre
betweene the
Kings sub-
jects.*

*The fashi-
on of the
Irish warrs.*

Beware the Cat.

away all such Cattell as hee might cōe
by, by means wherof, all the Contrie
from Cluine to Rosse became a wast
wildernes and is scarce recovered un-
til this day. In this time I say, as I
was on a night at Coshery w one of
Filzberies churles: we fel in talke as
we haue don now of straunge aduen-
tures and of Cats, and there among o-
ther things the Churle (for so they call
all Farmers & husband men) told me
as you shall heare. There was, not se-
uen yeres past, a Kern of John But-
lers dwelling in the Fassock of Bantry
called Patrik Apore, who minding to
make apzay in the night vpon Cayer
Makart his maisters enemy: got him
with his boy, (for so they call their
horse keepers be they neuer so olde kna-
ues) into his Contrie, & in the night
time entred into a town of two how-
ses and brake in and slue the people;
and then took such cattel as they foud
which was a Cow and a sheep and de-
parted therewith homeward, but dout-
ing they should be pursued: (the Curre
dogs made such a shril barking) he got
hi in to a church, thinking to lurk ther
til midnight was past, for there he was
sure

A Churles
tale.

this was
an Irish
town.

Irish Curs
bark sore.

Beware the Cat.

suier that no man would respect or seek him, for the wild Irish men had Churches in such reuerence, til our men taught them the contrary, that they neither would nor durst either rob or hurt thence, or hurt any mā that took the church yard for sanctuary, no though he had killed his father, and while this Kern was in the Church: he thought it best to dine for he had eaten little that day, wherfore he made his boy gather sticks and strake fire with his feres, and made a fire in the Church and killed the Sheep, and after the Irish fashion layd it there vpon and roasted it, but when it was ready and that he thought to eat it there came in a cat and set her by him, and said in Irish, Shane foel, which is giue mee some meat, he amased at this, gaue her the quarter that was in his hand, whiche immediatly she did eat vp, and asked moze til she had consumed all the sheep, and like a cozmozāt not satisfied therewith asked stil for moze, wherfore they supposed it were the Deuil, and therefore thinking it wisdome to please him killed the Cow which they had stolen, and when they had flaid it: gaue the

The wilde Irish men were better then we in reuerencing their Religion.

The olde Irish diet was to dine at night.

A malapart gest that cometh vnbidden.

A Cat did eat a sheep.

The first parte of

the wood
Kerns
Cookry.

Kerns for
lack of
meat eat
their shoes
rosted.

A Kerne
Killed a
malkin.

Cat a quarter which she immediatlye deuoured, thē they gaue her two other quarters, and in the mean while after the contrie fashion they did cut a peece of the hide and pricked it vpon fower stakes which they set about the fire, and therin they set a peece of the Cow for them selues, and with the rest of the hide, they made eche of them laps to were about their feet like broges, bothe to keepe theire feet from hurt all the next day: and also to serue for meat the next night if they could get none other, by broyling thē vpon coles. By this time the Cat had eaten three quarters and called for more, wherfor they gaue her that which was a seeth- ing, and deuting lest when she had eaten that, she would eat thē to because they had no more for her: they got thē out of the Church and the Kern took his horse and away he rode as fast as he could hie. When he was a mile or two from the Church: the moone began to shine, and his boy espied the cat vpon his maisters horse behinde him, tolde him, wherupon the kern took his Dart and turning his face toward her flang it, and stroke her thorough with it

Beware the Cat.

it but immediately there came to her
such a sight of Cats, that after long
fight with them: his boy was killed
and eaten up, and he him self, as
good and as swift as his horse was had
much to doe to scape. When he was
come home and had put of his harness
(which was a Cozack of maile made
like a Shirt, and his heul covered
ouer with gilt leather and crested with
Otterskin) all weary and hungry set
him down by his wife and tolde her
his aduenture, which when a kistling
which his wife kept scarce half a yere
had heard: by she started and said, hast
thou killed Grinnalkin: & therewith
she plunged in his face, and with her
teeth took him by the throte, & ere he
could be take away: she had strangled
him. This the Churle tolde mee, now
about xxxij. winters past, and it was
doon, as he and diuers other credible
men inuouinted mee not seauen yeres
before, wherupon I gather that this
Grinnalkin was it which the Cat in
Kank vwood sent newes of vnto y cat
which we heard of euen now. Tush
quoth an other that sate by, your con-
iecture is to vnreasonable, for to admit

Cats did
kill and eat
aman.

the Kernes
Armour.

A Kistling
killeth the
Kern that
slew him.

A very
strange
coniecture.

The first part of

Each rea-
line know-
eth what is
doon in
all other.

Cats cary
newes.

Bees looue
and obey
their goner
nour.

that Cats haue reason, & that they do
in theire owne language vnderstand
one another, yet how shoulde a Cat in
Cank wood knowe what is done in
Ierland? How quoth hee, euen as wee
knowe what is done in the realmes of
Fraunce, Flaunders & Spain, yea and
almost in all the world beside, There
be few ships but haue Cats belonging
vnto them, which bring newes vnto
their fellowes out of all quarters. Wea
quoth the other, but why should all cats
loue to heare of Grimmalkin? o2 how
should Grimmalkin eat so much meat
as you speak of? o2 why should all cats
so labour to reuenge her death? Nay
that passeth my cunning (quoth hee) to
shew in all: how be it in parte coniect-
ures may be made, as thus. It may be
that Grrmmalkin and her line is as
much esteemed and hath the same dig-
nitie among Cats: as either the hum-
ble o2 maister Be hath among h whole
biue, at whose commaundement all
Bees are obedient, whose succour and
safegarde they seek, whose w2ogs they
all reuenge, o2 as the Pope hath had
ere this ouer all Chriffendome, in
whose cause all his clergie would not
onely

Beware the Cat.

onely scrat and bite: but kil and burn the popes
to powder (though they know not why) clergie are
whome so euer they thought, to think crueller
but once against him. Which Pope than Cats
all things considered, deuoureth moze
at euery mele then Grimmalkin did
at her last supper. May said I then, The Pope
although the Pope by exactions and a great
ther baggaicall trüpery haue spoyled waster.
all people of mighty spoyles, yet as to
ching his owne person: he eateth and A little suf-
weareth as little as any other man, fiseeth him
though paraduenture moze sumptu- that hath
ous and costly, and greater abundance inough.
prouided. And I heard a very proper
saying, in this behalf of King Henry
the seuenth. When a seruant of his
tolde him what a bundance of meat he
had seen at an Abbots Table: he repo- Such geas-
ted him to be a great Gluttō. He asked nes a man
if the Abbot eat vp all, and when he an may haue
swered no, but his Geasts did eat the inon w.
most parte (ah quoth the King) thou the wisdom
callest him glutton for his liberality to of king Hen-
feed thee and such other vnthankful ry the Se-
churles. Like to this felow are all Aus nenth.
sians, for let honest worshipful men
of the Citie, make them good chæer or
lend them money as they commonly

The first parte of

the vn
thankful
are to be
abhorred

Rauenours
spoyl more
then they
occupie

Do: what haue they for their labourer:
either foule reprochful names as dung
hil charles, Cuckolde kinanes, or else
spiteful and slanderous reports, as
to be blurers, and receiuers of the com
mon wele. And although that some
of them be such indeed, yet I abhor to
hear other of whome they deserue wel
so lewdly to repute them. But
now to returne to your communicati
on, I mervell how Grimmalkin as
you feare her, if she were no bigger:
could eat so much meat at once, I doe
not think (quoth he that tolde the tale)
that she did eat all: although she asked
all, but took her choice and left the rest
by, as wee see in the feeding of many
things. For a Wolf although a Cony
be more then he can eat, yet wil he kil
a Cow or twaine for his breakfast like
wise all other rauenous beasts. Now
that loue and fellowship and a desire to
saue their kinde is among Cats: I kn
owe by experience. For there was one
that hired a friend of mine in pastime
to roste a Cat alive, and promised him
for his labour twentie Shillings, my
friend to be sure: caused a Couper to fa
ken him into a Hogshed, in which he
turned

Beware the Cat.

turned a spit wherupon was a quick Cat, but ere he had turned a while: whether it was the smel of the Cat? whil that singed, or els her cry that called them: I cannot tel, but there came such a sorte of Cats, that if I and other hardy men (which were well scrat for our labour) had not behaved vs the better: the Hogshed as fast as it was hoped could not haue kept my Cousin from them. Indeed quoth a well lerned man and one of excellent iudgement that was then in the company. It doth appere that there is in Cats as in all other kindes of beasts, a certaine reason and language wherby they vnderstand one another. But as touching this Grimmalkin: I take rather to be an Hagat or a V Vitch then a Cat. For witches haue gone often in that likeness, And therof hath come the prouerb as trew as common, that a Cat hath nine liues, that is to say, a witch may take on her a Cats body nine times.

Cat will to kinde.

Some think this was maister Sherry.

witches may take on them the liues of other things.

By my faith sir this is strange (quod I my self) that a Witch should take on her a Cats bodie. I haue read that the Pitchonesses could cause their spirittes to take vpon them dead mens bodies,

and

Myerispirits take on the dead mens bodies.

The first part of

and the ayry spirits whiche we call Demones, of which kinde are Iucub⁹ and Succubus, Robin godselowe the Fairy and Goblins, which the Miners call Telchines, could at their pleasure take vpon them any other sortes. But that a woman being so large a bodie, should strain her into the body of a Cat or into that forme either: I haue not much heard of, nor can well perceiue how it may be, which maketh me I promise you beleue it the lesse.

wise men
dissemble
their cunning.

maister
Streamer is
well seen in
tongues.

Wel maister Streamer (quoth he) I knowe you are not so ignorant heerin as you make your self: but this is your accustomed fashion alwaies to make men beleue that you be not so well lerned as you be. Sapiens enim celat scienciam which appeared wel by Socrates. For I knowe being skild as you be in y^e tungenes chæfly y^e Calde, Arabik and Egiptian, and hauing read so many Autho^rs therin, you must needs be skilful in these matters but where you spake of intrusion of a womā's body in to a Cat: you either play Nicodem, or the stubborn Popish confuter, wherof the one would creep into his mothers belly again: that other would bring

Christe

Beware the Cat.

Christe out of Heauē to thrust him into transubstan
a peece of bread, but as the one of they^{tiat ioners}
is groce & the other peruers: so in this^{destroy chri}
point I must place you with one of the^{stes māhod}

For although witches may take vpon
them Cats bodies, or alter the shape of
their or other bodies yet this is not don
by putting their owne bodies therinto

but either by bringing their soules for^{How Wit-}
the time out of their bodies, and putting^{ches trans-}
them in the other, or by deluding the^{forme their}
sight and fantasies of the seers. As whē^{shape.}

I make a candle with the brain of an
Horse and Brimstone, the light of the

cādel maketh all kinds of heads appear^{One kinde}
horseheads but yet it altereth the forme^{of Magike}
of no head, but deceiueth the right concep^{consumeth}
tion of the eye, which thzough the false^{decerning}
light receiueth a like forme. Whē quoth^{the senses.}

he that had been in Ireland, I cānot tel
fir by what means witches doe change
their one likenes and the shapes of o-

ther things. But I haue heard of so ma
ny, and seen so much my self, that I am
sure they doe it. for in Ireland (as they
haue been in England) witches are for^{Witches}
feare had in high reuerēce, and they be^{are reueren}
so cunning: that they can chaunge the^{ced for fear}
shapes of thigs as they list at their plea

The first part of

An act for
bidding to
buy red
Swine.

Sorcerers
make swie
of hay and
other bags
gage.

men turn-
ed into
wulues.

A man
prooued
himself to
hane been a
wulf seven
yeeres

sure, & so deceue the people therby that
an act was made in Irelād, that no mā
should buy any red swine. The cause
wherof was this. Witches vsed to sēd
to y^e markets many red swine fair & fat
to sē vnto as any mought be, & would
in that forme cōtinue long, but it chan-
ced the buiers of them to bring them to
any water: immediatly they found thē
returued either into wisps of Haye,
Straw, olde rotten boards or some oth-
er such like trūpery, by meanes wherof
they haue lost their money or such other
cattel as they gaue in exchange for thē
There is also in Ireland one nacion,
wherof sōe one man and woman are
at euery seven yæres end turned into
Wulues, and so continue in the wood
the space of seven yærs and if they hap
to liue out y^e time: they return to their
olde forme again: and other twain are
turned for the like time into the same
shape, which is a penance (as they say)
enioyned that stock by Saint Patrick
for some wickednes of their ancestors
& y^e this is true: witnessed a man whom
I left aliue in Ireland, who had perfor-
med this seven yæres penance, whose
wife was slaine while she was a Wulf

Beware the Cat.

in her last yēer. This man told to many men whose cattel he had worried, & whose bodies he had assailed, while he was a wulf so plain and euident tokēs & shewed such scars of wounds which other men had giuen him, bothe in his mannes shap before he was a wulf, and in his wulfs shap since, which appeared vpon his skin: that it was euident to all men, yea and to h^e Bishop too (vpon whose grant it was recorded and registred) that the matter was vndoubtedly past peradventure.

And I am sure you are not ignorant of h^e Hermit whom as S. Augustine writeth, a witch would in an Asses forme ride vpon to market. But now how these Witches made their swine, & how these folk were turned frō shap to shap whether by some ointment whose clernes deceived mens sights til either the water washed away the ointment or that the clernes of the water excelled the clernes of the Ointment, and so befrated the operation of it I am as vncertain as I am sure that it were h^e spirits caled Demones, forced by inchantmēt to moue those bodies, til shame of their shap discovered, caused thē to

Demones
are the soul
es of cōter
fet bodies.

leane

The first parte of

Witches
are by natu-
re mali-
tious.

When and
to whome
witches
teach their
science.

How men
are chaun-
ged into
wulues.

With craft
is kin to vn-
written ve-
rites for
both goeby
traditions.

leauē them. But as for the transfor-
ma-
tion of the wulues, is either miraculus
as Naamās lepry in the flock of Gebe-
sie, or els to shamful, crafty, malicious
sozcery. And as the one way is vnserch-
able: so I thinke there might means bee
found to gesse how it is down the other
way. For witches are by nature excē-
ding malicious: and it may chaunce y
some witches for displeasure taken w
this wulvissh nation, gaue her daughter
charge in her death bed, when she tan-
ght her the science (for til that time wit-
ches neuer teach it nor the but to their
eldest and best beloued daughter) that
she should at euery seven yēeres ende:
confect some ointment which for seven
yēeres space might be in force against
all other clēernes to represent vnto
mens eyes the shape of a wulfe, and
in the night season to goe her self in
likenes either of y mare or some other
night fourme, and anoint therewith the
bodies of some couple of that kindred
which she hated, & that after her time
she should charge her daughter to ob-
serue y same & to charge her daughter
after her to do y like for euer. so y this
charge is giuen alwayes by tradicion
with

Beware the Cat.

with the science, and so is continued & observed by this **W**itches offspring by whom two of this kindred, as it may be supposed, are from every seven for every seven years space turned into wolves

When I had heard these tales, and the reason of the doing shewed by the teller. ah Thomas (quoth I, for y

was his name, hee died after ward of a disease which hee took in Newgate, where he lay long for suspicion of magic because he had desired a prisoner to promise him his soul after he was hanged) I perceine now y olde proverbe is true, the skil sow eateth vp all the draff

You go & behaue your self so simply y a man would think you were but a fool

but you haue vttered such a proof of natural knowledg in this your brief talke as I think, except my self and few moze the best learned alieue, none could haue done the like, you say your pleaser master Stremer quoth he as for me I ha

ue said nothing saue that I haue seen & wherof any man might coniecture as I do. you haue spoken ful wel, quoth he y

gaue occasiō of this tale, and your coniectures are right reasonable. For like as by ointments, as you suppose the I

rill

many
shrewd di-
seases doo
breed in
Newgate

the best lers
ned are not
the gretest
boasters.

that a man
seeth he
may boldly
say.

The first part of

witches
neuer vse
their art
but to enill.

rish witches doe make & form of Whist
and wolues appeere to all mens sight:
so thinke I that by the like power Eng-
lish witches, and Irish witches, may
and doe turn themselves into Cats for
I heard it tolde while I was in y^e Uni-
uersitie, by a credible Clark of Oxford
how that in the dayes while he was a
Childe: an olde woman was brought
before the Officials accused for a wit-
ch which in the likenes of a Cat would
goe into her neighbours houses & stele
thence what she listed, w^{ch} complaint was
proued true, by a place of the womā's
Skin which her accusers w^{ch} a fire brād
that they hurled at her had singed while
she went a threuing in her cats likenes
So y^e to conclude as I began, I thinke
that the cat which you call Grimalkin
whose name carryeth in it matter to cō-
firm my Coniecture. For Malkin is a
womā's nāme as witnesseth y^e proverbe.
there be no maides thē Malkin I thinke
(I say) that it was a witch in a cats
likenes and that for the wit & craft of
her: other naturall cats that were not so
wise, haue had her & her race iⁿ reuerēce
among them, thinking her to be but a
meer cat as they thē selues were, like
as

Be ware the Cat.

as we ly fooles long time for his fly & crafty iugling, reuerenced the Pope, thinking him to haue been but a mā (thoogh much holier thē we our selues were) where as indeed he was a very incarnated deuil, like as this Griminalkin was an incarnate witch. why thē sir (said I) doe you think that naturall cats haue wit & that they vnderstand one another, what els maister Stremer (quod he) there is no kinde of senciible creatures but haue reason and vnderstanding wherby (in their kinde) eche vnderstandeth other, & doe therein some points so excell: that the cōsideration therof, moued Pithagoras (as you knowe) to belæue & affirm that after death, mens soules went into beasts, & beasts soules into men, and euery one according to his desert in his former body.

Pithagoras opinion concerning soules.

And although his opinion be fond and false: yet that which drew him therto is euident and true, & that is the wit and reason of diuers beasts, and again the dul beastly brutish ignozance of diuers men, but that beasts vnderstand one another, and Fowles likewise, besid y we see by dayly experience in marking them, the story of the Bishop of Alexandria

some beasts are wiser then men.

A Bishop vnderstood

The first parte of

all kinde of
creatures
voices.

the brain
is the orgā
of vnder
standing.

A Sparow
called her
fellowes to
a Banquet

dria by record dooth proue. for he found the mean either through diligenc so to mark them oz els through Magik natural, so to subtilitate his sencible power either by purging his braine by dry drinckes & fumes, oz els to augmēt the bzaines of his power perceptible, by o ther naturall medicines, y he vnder stood al kind of creatures by their voy ces. For being on a time sitting at dinner in a house amōg his frēends: he har kned diligētly to a Sparow that came flēeing and chirping to other that were about the house, & smiled to him self to hear her, and when one of y company desired to knowe why he smiled: he said at the Sparowes tale. For she telleth thē (quoth he) that in the highway not a quarter of a mile hence a sack of whe at is euen now fallen of an horse back & broken, & all the wheat run out, and therfore biddeth them come thether to dinner. and when the geasts mused heer at, sent to proue the truedy: they found it euen as he had tolde them.

When this tale was ended the clock struk nine wher vpon olde Thomas be cause he had far to his lodging: took his leaue and departed, the rest of y compa ny

Beware the Cat.

ny gat them also either to their busines
or to their beds.

And I went straight to my chamber
before remembred, and took a booke in my
hand to haue studied, but the remembra
unce of this former talke so troubled me
y I could thinke of nothing els, but mu
sed still and as it were examined
more narrowly that euery
man had spoken.

Maister
Stremer
is alwayes
much gene
to study.



C.

The

The second parte of
C *The second parte of Maister Streamers Oration.*



Re I had been long

in this contemplation: the Cats whose crying the night before had been occasion of all y^e which I

Cats assembled in the leads,

Cats haue fundrie voices.

The diligence of the Autor

haue tolde you: were assembled again in the Leads which I spake of, where the dead mens quarters were set vp And after the same sort as they did the night before: one sung in one tune, an other in an other euen such an other service, as my Lords chappel vpon the scaffold song before the King, they obserued no Multicall cordes neither Diatessarō, Diapente, no^r Diapason, and yet I wēn I hee, for one Cat groning as a Beare doth, when Doges be let slip to him, throwled out so lowe and loud a base, that in comparisō of an other Cat which crying like a yung Childe squelled out the shriking treble: it mought be wel counted a double Diapason. Wherefore to the intent I might perceine y^e better the cause of their assembly, and by their gestures perceine parts

Beware the Cat.

parte of their meaning: I went softly to vnder-
and faire into a Chamber which hath a stand all
windowe into the same leads, and in the things.

dark standing closely: I beheld through
the trellice as wel as I could, all their
gestures and behaviour, And I promise
you it was a thing worth the marking
to see what countenances, what becks
yea and what order was among them.

For one Cat which was a mightie big
one, gray heared, bristle bearded, and ha-
ving brode eyes which shone and spark-
led like two Starres, sate in the mids,
and on either side of her sate an other,
and before her stood three more, wherof
one mewed continually, saue when the
great Cat groned, & euer when the gret
Cat had down: this mewing Cat began a
gain, first stretching out her neck & as it
were making belhens to the which sat.
And often times in the midst of this

Cats keep
order a-
mong the
selues.

Cats mewing: all the rest would sudden-
ly, eche one in his tone braied forth, and
incontinently hushd again, as it were
laughing at somewhat which they heard
the other Cat declare. After this sorte I
behelde them from ten til it was twelue
a clock, at which time, whether it were
vessel in the kitchen vnder, or some boord

Cats make
cortisie
with their
necks and
tailes.

Note heer
the pain-
fulnes of
the Au-
thor.

The second parte of

in the printing house hard by, I cannot tel, but some what fel wth h such a noise that all the cats gat them by bpō y house and I fearing lest any arose to see what was fallen, they would charge me with the hurling down of it if they found mee there I whipt into my Chamber quickly and finding my lamp burning: I set me down vpon my bed, and deuised vpon y dwinings of these Cats, casting all maner of wayes, what might be cōfected ther of to know what they meaned. And by and by I deemed that the gray cat which sat in the midst: was the cheef, & sat as a Judge among the rest, and that the Cat which continually mewed: declared sōe matter oꝝ made account to her of some what.

The good
huswines
Candle ne-
uer goeth
out.

Ernest des-
fier bani-
sheth sleep.

Albertus
Magnus
teacheth
many won-
ders.

By meanes wherof I was straight caught wth such a desire to knowe what she had said: y I could not sleep of all that night, but lay deuising by what meanes I might learn to vnderstand them. And calling to minde that I had read in Al- tus Magnus works, a way how to be able to vnderstand birds voyces: I mad no more to do but sought in my libzary for y litle booke intituled De virtutibus animalium, &c. and greedely red it ouer
and

Beware the Cat.

and when I came to Si vis voces auium
intelligere. & c. Lord how glad I was.

A Philoso-
pher ser-
cheth the
nature of al
things.

And when I had thoroughly marked the
discription of the medicine, and considered
with my self the nature and power of e-
uery thing therein, and how and vpon
what it wrought: I deuised thereby how
wth parte of those things, & addition of o-
ther like vertue & operation, to make
a Philtre to serue for my purpose. And
as soon as restles Phebus was come vp
out of the smoking Sea, & with shaking
his golden coulozed beames which were
all the night long in Thetis moist bo-
some had dropped of his siluer sweat in
to Herdaes d^{ry} lap, & kissing faire Auro-
ra with glowing mouth, had driuen frō
ther h^{ad}nouter Luciter & was mouēd
so h^{ye} to look vpo Europa y^{et} for al y^e heit
of M^{ile} end steeple he spied mee through
the glasse windowe lying on my bed, v^{er}
I rose and got me abroad to seek for such
thigs as might serue for my earnest bu-
sines which I went about, and because
you be all my frēnds that are hēere: I
wil hide nothing from you, but declare
from point to point how I behaued my
self bothe in making & taking of my Phil-
tre, If thou wilt vnderstand (saith Al-

A discriptio
of the resur-
rection of
the Sun.

Nothing
may be hid
from
freends

bert

The second parte of

How to
vnderstand
Birds.

Men and
dogs fraid
out of

their wits
in pꛛoꛛ
uing anex
periment.

An Hedge
hog is one
of the pla
naticall
beasts and
therefore
good in
magick.

bert) the voices of birds or beasts, take
two in thy company, and vpon Simon
and Iudas day early in the morning, get
thee with Hounds into a certain wood,
and the first beast that thou meetest take
and prepare with the hart of a ffox, and
thou shalt haue thy purpose, and who so
euer thou kissett shalt vnderstand them as
wel as thy self.

Because his writingt haer is doubtful be
cause he saith Quoddam nemus a cer
tain wood & because I knew the men
(not many yeres past) which while they
went about this hunting were so fraid,
whether with an euil spirite or wth their
own immaginason I cannot tel, but hoe
they came with their here standing on
end, and some of the haue been y^e worse
euer since and the hounds likewise, and
seeing it was so long to S. Iudas day ther
fore I determined not to hit at all, but a
coniecturing that y^e best that they should
take was an Hedgehog (which at that
time of the y^ear goeth mosse abroad, and
knowing by reason that the flesh therof
was by nature ful of naturall heat, and
therfore the pꛛincipall parts beeing eatē
must needs crpulce groce matters and
subtil the bzaine, as by the like power it

Beware the Cat.

ingendzeth fine blood, so helpeth it much
 bothe against the Gout and the Cramp,
 I got me southward to Johns wood,
 and wheras not two dayes before I had
 seen one, and see the lucky and unlucky
 chaunce, by the way as I went I met
 with Hunters, who had y morning kild
 a Foxe and three Hares, who (I thank
 them) gave me an Hare: and the foxes
 whole body except the eace, and six smart
 lashes with a slip, because (wherin I did
 mean no harm) I asked them if they had
 seen any where any hedgehog y morning
 And heer saue that my tale is otherwise
 long, I would shew you my minde of
 these wicked superstitious obseruation
 of foolish hunters, for they be like as see
 meth me to y papists, which for speakig
 of good and trewe words: punish good &
 honest me. Are not Apes, Owles, Cuc
 kolwes, Beares and Archins Gods good
 creatures? Why then is it not lawfull to
 name them? If they say it bringeth evil
 luck in the game: then are they unlucky
 Idolatrical miscreant Infidels and haue
 no true belæse in Gods providence I be
 shew their superstitious hartes, for my
 buttocks bear the burthen of their mis
 belæf, and yet I thank them again for
 the

A medicin
for the
gout.

The libe
rality of
hunters.

Superstici
ous hun
ters ar kin
to papists.

All crea
tures are
good.

to obserue
times, day
es ar wo
rdes: argu
eth infidi
litic:

The second parte of

He that see
keth fin-
der.

Albertus
saith if a
man when
he prepa-
reth any
medicin
tell alowde
why he ma-
keth it: it
will be of
more force.

One good
hap foloweth
an other.

Cats
greace is
good for
the gout.

the For & the hare which they gave me,
for with those two Houndes at my gir-
dle I went a hunting, til I indæd vnder a
Hedge in a hole of the earth by the root of
an hollow tree: I found an hedghog with
a bushel of crabs about him, whom I kil-
led straight wth my knife, saying. Shauol
I washmeth, gorgona liscud, & with the
other beastes hung him at my girdle and
came homeward as fast as I could hie
But when I came in the close besides Is-
lington commonly caled S. Johns feeld
A kite belike very hungry, spide at my
back the skinlesse For, and thinking to
haue had a morsel: strake at it, and that
so egerly that one of his clawes was en-
tered so deap, that befoze he could leuse it:
I drew out my knife and killed him, say-
ing lauol sheleg butotheca liscud and
to make vp the messe, brought him hom
with the rest, and ere I had layd them
out of my hand: came Thomas whom
you heard of befoze, & brought me a Cat
which for doing euill turnnes: they had
that morning caught in a snare set for
her two dayes befoze, which for the skins
sake beeing slain: was so exceeding fat,
that after I had takē some of the greace
the inwards and the hed, to make (as I
made

Beware the Cat.

made him beleeue) a medicine for the
gout, they perboyled the rest & at night
rosted and farced with good hearbes,
did eat it by euery morsel, and was as
good meat as was or could be eaten But
now mark, for when Thomas was de-
parted with his Cat: I shut my Cham-
ber doores to me, and flaid my Archin,
wishing off, for Doctor Nicholas or some
other expert Physicion to make the dissec-
tion, for the better knowledge of the A-
natomy. The flesh I washed cleane, and
put it in a pot, and with white wine, Mel-
lisophillos or Melissa, commonly called
Balme, Rosemary, Petes tung, foure
partes of the first & two of the second, I
made a broth and set it on the fire & boy-
led it, sitting on a Lembeck with a Glas
at the end ouer the mouth of the pot, to
receiue the water that distilled fro it, in
the sathing wherof I had a pinte, of a
pottel of Wine which I put in the pot.
Then because it was about the Solsti-
cium estiuale, and that in confectiōs the
houres of the planets, must for the bet-
ter operacion be obserued: I started tilte
a clock befoze dinner, what tyme Mercu-
ry began his lucky reigne, and then I
took a peece of the Cats-liuer, & a peece of
the

A Cat was
rosted and
eaten.

solitary
man is ei-
ther a God
or a beast.

Par prior
numerus
impar pos
terior
esto geb.

Omne
dus fiat in
sua Plane
ta zoroast

Omne totum totali

The second parte of

ter malum the kidney, a peece of y milt & the whole
Trismeg. hart, the fores hart and lights, the
Hares bzaïne, the kites matwe, and the
Archins kidneies, all these I beat in a
morter together til it were small, & then
made a cake of it, and baked it vpon an
hot stone til it was dzye like bread. And
while this was a baking; I took by parts
of the Cats greace, as much of her bzaïn
with v. beares of her beard, ty. black and
two gray, three partes of the Fores grece
as much of her bzaïne, with the bones
of his left feet, the like porcion of the Ar
chins greace and bzaïn with his stones,
Dextra bo all the kites bzaïn, all the marrow of her
na bonis böes, the iuce of her hart, her byper beke
finistra vo and the middle claw of her left foot, the
ro finistris fat of the Hares kidneies, and the iuce of
his right shoulder bone. All these things
I punned to gether in a Morter by the
space of an houre, and then I put it in a
cloth, and hung it ouer a bason in y sun,
out of which dropped within ty. honres
after, about half a pint of Dyle very fast
and clare. Then took I the galles of all
these beastes and the kites too and serued
them likewise, keeping the licour y drop
ped from them. At twelue a clock what
time the Sun began his planeticall do
minion

Beware the Cat

minson, I went to dinner, and meat I from the
 eat none save the boyled Archim^{is} my bred Astrono
 was the cake mencioned afore, my drink mers in
 was the distillatio of the Archim^{is} brothe his planet
 which was exceeding strong and pleasant houres.
 bothe in taste and saour. After that I
 had dined wel; my head waxed so heavy, The intel
 that I could not chuse but sleep, and af^{ligible}
 ter that I waked again which was with diet.
 in an houre: my mouth and my nose pur
 ged exceedingly, such yelow, white and
 tawny matters: as I neuer saw before, There be
 nor thought that any such had been in many
 manes body. When a pinte of this gere, strange hu
 was come forth, my rume ceased, and mours in
 my head and all my body was in excee many mēs
 ding good temper, and a thousand things heads.
 which I had not thought of in twenty
 yeres before: came so freshly to my The remē
 minde as if they had been then, pre^{brac} lieth
 sently down, heard or seen. Whereby I in the nod
 perceived that my brain chiefly the nake dle of the
 memo^zatue was meruelously well pur bed.
 ged my imagination also was so fresh, A good
 by and by I could shew probable reason, in hiloso
 what and in what sorte, and upon what phet.
 matter enery thing which I had taken, Exercise
 wrought, and the cause why. Than to be is good af
 occupied after my sleep: I cast away the ter sleep.
 carcass

The second parte of

Whote
things pur-
ge the head

A good me-
dicin for a
kings eares

What hin-
dres the
imaginati-
one power.

carcas of the Fox, & of y^e kite, with all the
garbage bothe of them & the rest, saving
the tungs and the eares, which were ve-
ry necessary for my purpose. And thus I
prepared them. I took all the eares and
scalped of the hear: then stamped I them
in a mortar, & when they all were like a
dry gelly: I put to the Rue, Fenel Low-
ach and lake blades, of each a handful,
and punned them a fresh then deuised I
all the matter in two egall parts, and
made two litle pillowes, & stuffed them
therwith. And when Saturnes dry houre
of dominion approached: I fryed these pil-
lowes in good oyle olife, and layd the hot
to mine eares, to eche ere one, and kept
them therto til nine a clock at night,
which holpe exceedingly to comfort
my vnderstanding power. But be-
cause as I perceiued the cell perceptible
of my brain intelligible, was yet to gro-
sse, by meanes that the filmy panicle co-
ming from dure mater, made to strait o-
pulations, by ingrossing the pores and co-
duts imaginative, I deuised to help that
with this gargaristickall fume, whose sub-
til ascention is wonderful. I took the cat
the Foxes, and the Kites tung, and sod
them in Wine welnere to gelly, then
took

Beware the Cat

took I them out of the wine, and put the
in a Morter & added to them of new cats
dung an ounce of Musterd seed, Garlike
and Pepper as much, and when they
were with beating incorpored: I made
lossenges and trociskes therof And at six
a clock at night, what time the suns do-
minion began againe I supped wth therest
of the meat which I left at dinner & w^{hē}
Mercuryes reigne aproched which was
within two hours after: I drank a great
draught of my skiled water & aneinted
all my head ouer with wine and oyle be-
fore described, and with the water which
came out of the galles: I washed mine
eyes, and because no humors should ascēd
into my head by euapozation of my reins
through the chine bone, I took an ounce
of Alkakēgy in powder which I had for
a like purpose not two daies afore bought
at the Potecarles, and therewith rubbed
and chafed my back from the neck down
to the middle, and heatig in a frying pan
my pillowes afresh & laid them to mine
eares, and tied a kerchief about my head
and with my losenges and trociskes in a
boxe, I went out among the seruants,
among whom was a shrewd boy, a very
crackrope, y^e needs would knowe what
was

The whol
somest
things are
not alwai
es most to
othsome.

Mercury
furthereth
al fine and
subtil pra
ctises.

The cheef
est poit of
wisdome,
is to pre-
uent incō
ueniencies

Heat aug-
menteth
the vertue
of outwa-
rd plasters

The second parte of

The vngracious should be vngratius ly serued was in my bore, and I to cause him after his sawsines: called them Prescenciall pilles, affirming that who so might eat one of them should not only vnderstand wonders; but also propheeye after them. Wheruppon the boy was exceeding earnest in intreating me to giue him one, and when at last very lothely (as it seemed) I graunted his request: he took a losenge, put it in his mouth, and chewed it apace, by means wherof when the fume ascēded: he began to spattle and spit, saying by Gods bones it is a Cats toord. At this the company laughed apace, & so did I to, verifuyng it to be as he said, & that he was a Prophet. But that he might not spue to much by Imaginatiō: I took a losenge in my mouth, and kept in vnder my tung, shewing therby that it was not euill. While this pastime endared: me thought I heard one cry with a loud voice, what Isgrim, and therfore I asked whose name was Isgrim, saying that one did call him, but they said that they knew none of that name, nor heard any that did cal. So quoth I (for it called still) hear you no body: who is that called so lowd: we hear nothing but a cat (quod they) which mewes aboue in the Leads

When

Beware the Cat.

When I saw it was so indeed, and that I understood what the cat said glad was I as any man alive, and taking my leave of them as though I would to bed straight, I went into my chamber, for it was past nine of the clock, and because the houre of Saturnus colde dominion approached: I put on my gown & got me privately to the place in the which I had belovd the Cats the night before. And whē I had settled my self where I might conveniently heer and see all things down in the Leads where this Cat cryed still for Hegrim. I put in to my two nose-thrills two troisques, & in to my mouth two losenges, one above my tung the other under, and put of my left shew be- cause of Iupiters appropinquation & layd the For taile under my foot. And to hear the better: I took of my pillows whiche stopped mine eares and then listned and belovd as attentively as I could, but I warrant you y^e pelicle of my rime y^e lyeth within y^e bottome of mine eare hole, so whence little baines carry the sounds to the senses, was with this medicine in my pillows so purged and parched, or at least dyed: that the least moving of the ayre, whether stroke with breath of li-

Good suc-
ces of thi-
ngs make
me ioyous
Saturn is a
colde olde
planet.

There is
great cun-
ing in due
applying
of medicis

The cause
of hearing

The diffe-
rence be-
tween voi-
ces and
noyses.

uing

The second parte of

ving creatures which we call voyces, or
with the moving of dead, as windes,
waters, trees, carts, falling of stones &c
which are named noyses, sounded so
thril in my head by reuerberacion of my
fined filmes, that the sound of them alto-
gether was so disordered and monstrous:
that I could discern no one from other,
saue only the Hermony of the moving
of the Spheres, which noyse excelled all
other as much bothe in pleasantnes & thril
highnes of sound: as y^e Zodiack it self for
mouteth all other creatures in altitude
of place. For in comparison of y^e basest of
this noyse which is the moving of Sa-
turn by meanes of his large compas, the
highest voyces of birds, and the straitest
whistling of the winde, or any other or-
gan pipes (whose sounds I heard cōfused
together) appeared but a lowe bace, and
yet was those an high treble to the voice
of beasts, to which as a mean, the run-
ning of riuers was a tenor: and the boy-
ling of the Sea and the cateracts or gul-
fes therof a goodly base, and the rushing,
bysing and falling of the clowdes, a deep
diapason. While I harkned to this bross,
laboring to discern bothe voices and noy-
ces a sander, I heard such a mixture as I
think

The her-
mony of
heaven ex-
celleth all
other.

The Her-
mony of
elemental
mixtures.

Chaucers
house of
fame.

Beware the Cat.

think was neuer in Chaucers house of
 fame, for there was nothing within an
 hundred mile of me down on any side, (for
 from so far but no farther the ayre may
 come because of obliquation) but I herd
 it as wel as if I had been by it, and could
 discern all voyces, but by means of noy
 ses vnderstand none. Lord what a doo
 women made in their beds: some scold
 ing, some laughing, some weeping, some
 singing to their sucking children which
 made a woeful noyse with their continuall
 crying. and one shrewd wife a great way
 of (I think at S. Albons) called her hus
 band Cuckolde so lowd and shrill: that
 I heard that plain, and would fain haue
 I heard the rest, but could not by means
 of barking of dogges, grunting of hogges
 wauling of cats, rumbling of rats, gag
 ling of geese humming of bees, rousing of
 Bucks, gagling of ducks, singing of
 Swannes, ringing of pannes, crowing
 of Cocks lowing of locks, kackling of hees
 scrabbling of peenes, peeping of mice, trul
 ling of dice, cozzling of frogges, and todes
 in the bogges, chirping of crickets, shut
 ting of wickets, shrieking of owles, fl
 tring of sowles, rowting of knanes, snor
 ting of flanes, farting of churls filling of
 D. girls,

At euery
 hundred
 mile the
 aire reflec
 teth by me
 ane of the
 roundnes
 of the
 worlde.

Heer the
 poeticall
 furie came
 vpon him

Many noi
 ses in the

Beware the Cat.

night which all men hear not, girls, with many things else, as ringing of belles, counting of coines, mounting of groines, whispering of louers, springling of plowers, groning and spuing, baking and bzuing, scratching & rubbing, watching and shugging, with such a sorte of commixed noyses as would deaf any bo

Over much noyse maketh one deaf.

Heat shrilleth all moist Instruments

All suddē things astonish vs

dy to haue heard, much moze me, saying that the pannicles of mine eares were with my medisine made so fine and thif, and that by the temperate heat of the things therein, that like a taber dzyed before the fire, oz els a lute string by heat shrank nēer, they were incomparably amended in receiuing and yēlding the shrilnes of any touching sounds.

While I was earnestly harkning as I said to hear the womā (minding nothing els) the greatest bell in Saint Botulphes Steeple, which is hard by, was tolled for some rich body that then lay in passing, the sound wherof came with such a rumble into mine eare: that I thought all the devils in hel had broken lose; and were come about me, and was so a fraid therewith that when I felt the Fore taile vnder my foot (which thzough feare I had forgotten) I deemed it had been the devil indeed. And therfoze I cried out as lowd
as

The second parte of

as euer I could: the deuill, the deuill, the deuill. But when some of the folke raised with my noise had sought me in my chamber and found me not there: they went seeking about calling one to a nother, where is he? where is he? I cannot finde Maister Streamer, which noise & stir of the was so great in mine eares, & passing mans cōmon sound: that I thought they had been deuills indeed which sought and asked for me. Wherefore I crept close in to a corner in the chimney and hid me, saying many good prayers, to saue me from them. And because their noise was so terrible that I could not abide it: I thought best to stop mine eares, thinking thereby I should be the lesse affraid. And as I was there about: a crowe which be like was by nodding a sleep on y^e chimney top, fel down into the chimney ouer my head, whose flittering in the fall made such a noice, that when I felt his feet vpon my head: I thought that the deuill had been come indeed and seised vpon me.

And when I cast vpon my hand to saue me and therewith touched him: he called me knaue in his language after such a sorte that I swooned for feare. And by that I was come to my self again he was flow-

Fertilitas
sibi ipsi
nocua.

Danger
maketh
men deuout.

How euill
happens
together.

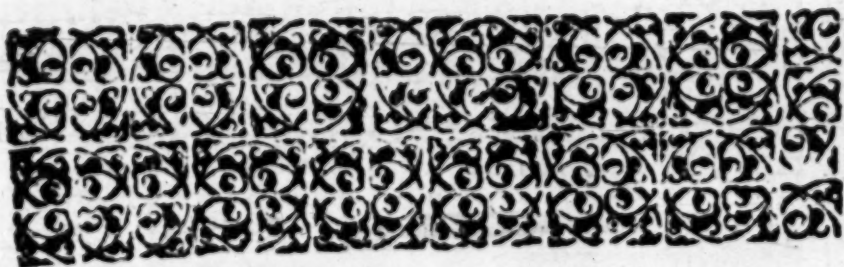
A mā may
dye onely
by imagination of
harm.

The second parte of

We hate
for euer
whatsoe-
uer hath
harmed vs

en fro me into the chamber rool & there
he sat all night, The took I my pillowes
and stopped mine eares, for the rumble
that the seruants made I took for the
deuils it was so great and shrill, and I
had no sooner put them on: but by and by
I heard it was y seruants which sought
for me and that I was deceiued thzough
my clærnes in hearing. For y bel which
put me in all this feare (for which I
neuer loued belles since) tolled stil, and
I perceiued wel inough what it was.
And seeing that the seruants would not
leave calling and seeking til they had
found me: I went down vnto them,
and fained that a Cat had been in
my chamber, and frayed mee.

wheruppon they went
to bed again, and
I too mine olde
place.



Beware the Cat.

The third parte of Maister Streamers Oration.



In this time waning Cynthia, which the day before had filled her growing hoznes: was come vp on our Hemisphere, & freshly yelded forth her brothers

The description of the Moon at full.

light which the reuerberation of Thetis trembling face, now full by means of spring, had fully cast vpon her, where of she must needs lose euery day more and more, by meanes that the nepe abasing Thetis swollen face, would make her to cast beyond her those rades which before the full: the spring had caused her to throwe short, like as with a Christall glasse, a man may by the placing of it either high or lowe, so cast the Sun or a candle light vpon any round glasse of water that it shall make the light thereof bothe in waring and waning to counterfeite the Moon. For you shall vnderstand, thesly you Maister Willot that are my Lordes Astronomer, that all our ancestors haue sayled in knowledge of natural causes, for it is not the Moon that

How to counterfet the Moon

Astronomers are deceiued.

Why,

causeth

Beware the Cat.

The spring and ne-
ping of the Sea
causeth the moon
to wax and wane.
causeth the Sea to eb and flowe, neither
to nepe and spring: but the nepling and
springing of the Sea is cause of the
Moons bothe waxing and waning. For
the Moon light is nothing same the shin-
ing of the Sun, cast into the element by
opposition of the Sea, as also the starres
are nothing els but the sun light reflect-
ed vpon y face of riuers, & cast vpon the

What the
moon and
starres be.
The Suns
mouing
is cause of
diuers mo-
uing of
the Starrs.
christalline heauen, which be cause Ri-
uers alway keep like course, therfore are
the starres alway of one bignes, As for
the course of the starres from east to west
is natural by meanes of the sunnes like
mouing, but in that they ascend & des-
cend, that is, sometime come northward
and some time goe southward: that is
caused also by the sunnes beeing either
on this side or on the other side his line

Why the
poles doo
not moue
likennightcall: the like reason foloweth
for the poles not mouing, and that is
the situation of chose riuers or dead seas
which cast them, and the roundnes and

I take this
book to
bee it that
is intituled
of the
great Egg
eggsome of the firmament. But let this
passe which in my book of Heauen and
Hell, shalbe plainly not onely declared:
but bothe by reason and experience pro-
ued, I wil come again to my matter.
When Cinthea (I say) folowing her bro-
thers

The third parte of

thers steps had looked in at my chamber windowe, & saw me neither in my bed nor at my booke: she hid her apace into the south, and at a little hole in the house roof, peeped in and saw me where I was set to harken to the Cats. And by this time all the Cats which were there the night before: were assembled with many other, onely the great gray one excepted. Unto whom as soon as he was come all the rest did their beysance as they did the night before. And when he was set: thus he began in his language, which I understood as wel as if he had spoken English, A my deer friends and felowes you may say I haue been a lingerer this night, and that I haue taried long but you must pardon me, for I could come no sooner. For when this evening I went into an ambry where was much good meat, to steale my supper: there came a wench not thinking I had been there, and clapped y^e lid down, by means whereof I haue had much to doe to get forth. Also in the way as I came hether ouer the house tops, in a gutter were theues breaking in at the windowe, who frayed me so: that I lost my way and fell down into the street, and had much to chauce.

The man
is studios.

Light ser-
cheth all
things.

Good ma-
ners amōg
Cats.

The stras-
nge hap-
of Grisard

Sweet
meat must
haue low-
er sauce.

Cats are a-
fraid of
theuees.

The third parte of

Hagat and
Heg are
Witches
which the
Cats do
worship.
Cats are
skilled in
Astrono-
my.

Cāmolo-
k is cheef
Prince a-
mong Cats

Gentlenes
becometh
officers.

Mousleir
tellet on
her story

Grimolo-
chin is the
same that
was lately
called Gri-
malkin.

do to escape the dogges, But seeing that
by the grace of Hagat and Heg, I am
now come, although as I perceiue by the
taile of the great Beare, and by Alha-
bor which are now somewhat southward
that the fifth houre of our night approch-
eth, yet seeing this is the last night of my
charge, and that to morrow I must a-
gain to my Lord Cammoloche (at this all
the cats spred a long there tailles and cry-
ed Hagat and Heg saue him) go to now
good mouse sleyer (q he) and that in time
which my misfortune hath lost: recover
again by breelines of thy talke. I will
my Lord quoth Mousleir, which is the
Cat which as I tolde you stood before the
great Cat the night before, continually
metwig, who in her language after y with
her taile shee had made curtesie, shunk
in her neck and said. wheras by vertue
of your commission from my Lord Cam-
moloche (whose life Hagat and Heg de-
send) who by inheritance and our free e-
lection intoyeth the Empire of his tra-
terously murdered mother, the Goddess
Grimolochin, you his greffier and cheef
counsellor my Lord Grisard with lie-
called Grim and Poilnoer your assistants, by
on a complaint put by in your high dees,
by

Beware the Cat

by that false accuser Catchrat (who beareth me malice because I refused his lecherously offered delights) haue caused me in purging my selfe besoze this honorable company, to declare my whole life since the blinde dayes of my kitling hood, you remember I trust, how in the two nights passed, I haue declared my life for iij. yeeres space wherein you perceine how I behaued me all that time. Wherefore to begin where I left last: you shall vnderstand that my Lord and Lady whose liues I declared vnto you last yester night, left the Citie and went to dwell in the Country, and caried me with them. And being there strange: I lost their house, and with Bird hunt my make, the gentlest in honest vsnery that euer I met with, when to a town where he dwelt called Stratford either stony, vpon Tine, or vpon Auon, I doe not wel remember which where I dwelt halfe a yeere, and this was in the time when Preachers had leaue to speake against the Masse, but it was not forbidden til halfe a yeere after. In this time I saw nothing worthy to sertifie my Lord of: saue this. My dame with whom I dwelt and her husband were bothe olde, and therfor

She purgeth her self by declaring her life.

Moufleeer was caried into the cuntrey.

Bird hunt was moufleeers mate

Olde errors ar hard to be remooued.

Beware the Cat

therfore hard to be turned from their ro-
ted belæse which they had in the masse,
which caused diuers yung folke chæfly
their sonnes, and a lerned kinsman of
theires to be the moze earnest to teach &
perswade them. And when they had all

A sudden moſte brought y matter to a good point:
disease. I cannot tell how it chaunced: but my
dames sight failed her, and she was so
sick: that she kept her bed two dayes.

Cats arad- her olde goſſly father, and when all wer
mitted to boyded the chamber saue I & they two:
all secrets. she tolde him how sick she was and how

A ioly per
ſwading
knaue,

blinde, so that she could ſee nothing, and
deſired him to pray for her and giue her
good counſaile. To whom he ſaid thus,
it is no meruaile though you be ſick and
blinde in body which ſuffer your ſouls
willingly to be blinded, you ſend for me
now: but why ſend you not for me when
theſe new herericks teach you to leaue
the catholicke belæf of Chriſtes fleſh in
the Sacrament? Why ſir (quod ſhe) I

Railing did ſend for you once, and whē you came
and ſan- they poſed you ſo with holy wryte, and
dring are ſaints wryting: that you could ſay no-
the paſtiſt thing but call them Hereticks, and that
Scriptures they had made the new Teſtamēt them
ſelues

The third parte of

selues. Yea quoth he, but did not I bid you take heed then, & tolde you how God would plague you: Yes good sir, quoth he you did, and now to my pain I finde you A tru cole to true a Prophet, but I beseech you for prophet, giue me and pray to God for me & what soeuer you will teach me: y wil I beleene vnto the death. Well (quod he) God refusethe no sinners that wil repent, and therfore in any case beleene y Christes, flesh gostly body, soule, and bone is as it was born of our blessed Lady, in the consecrated host & see that therfore you worship it: pray & offer to it. For by it any of your frends soules may be brought out of purgatory, which the new heretickes say is no place at all, but when their soules fry in it: they shal tel me another tale. And y you may know all y I say is true & that the masse can deliuer such as trust in it, from all maner of sinnes: I wil by & by say you a masse that shall restore your sight and helth. Then took he out of his besome a Wafer cake, and called for veritas Wine, and then shutting the dore vnto him, reuised him self in a surples and byngulos, on a table set before the bed: he laide his Portuse and therout he said masse.

No such
perswasions
as miracles
chiefly in
helping of
frib greif.

And when he came to the leuation:

he

The third parte of

A yung
knaue
made an
olde wōas
maker.

Olde folk
are lighter
of credit
then yūg.

Cats hear
many pri
uy night
masses.

Sorcerers
make folk
blinde.

why mast
es may
serue wel.

he lifted vp the cake and said to my dame
(which in two dayes afoze sawe no
thing) wipe thine eyes thou sinful wo
man and look vpon thy maker. With
that shee lifted vp her self and saw the
cake, and had her sight and her helth as
wel as euer shee had befoze. When mas
was down: she thanked God and him erce
dingly, and he gaue her charge that shee
should tel to no yung folks how she was
holpe, for his bishop had throught out the
dioces forbiddē them to say or sing any
masse but cōmaunded her that secretly
vnto olde honest men and women: shee
should at all times mosse deuoutly re
herse it. And by reason of this miracle
many are so confirmed in y^e belēf, that
although by a common law, all masses
vpon penaltie were since forbiddē; di
uers haue them priuily and nightly said
in their chambers vntil this day. Mary
sr (quoth Poilnoer) this was either a
mightie miracle: or els a mischeuous sub
teltie of a magesticall minister. But sure
if the p^rest by magicall art blinded her
not afoze, and so by like massicall sozcery
cured her again. It were good for vs to
hire him or other p^rests at our deliue
rye to sing a mas befoze our kittinges,
that

Beware the Cat.

þ they might in their birth be deliuered
of their blindenes, & sure if I knew that
pæst: it should scape me hard but I wou
ld haue one litter of kitlings in sbe chāb
er where he vseth now to say his priuy ni
ght masses. What need y (q Mouflear)
it would do the no good For I myself by Deuout
on like consideration kitted since in a oth kitlings
er mistresses chāber of mie, where a pæ that heard
he euery day said mas but my kitligs sa masfoiug
we nought y better: but rather y worse.
But when I heard y the Lord with whōe Flatterers
I went into y countrey, would to London are diligēt
to dwel again: I kept the house so wel for when they
a moneth befoze, that when my Lady spia profit
when she went caried me with her. And
when I was come to London again: I
went in visitation to mine olde acquaint
tance, & when I was great with kitling
because I would not be unpurueyed
of a place to kitten in: I got in fauour &
housholde with an olde gentlewoman a The trade
widow, with whom I passed out this of an olde
whole yere. This woman got her li gentlewo
ning by bozding yung gentlemen. for man.
whom she kept alwaies faire wēches in
stoze for whose sake she had the moze re- Crowes
sozte, & to tel you the trueth of her trade: wil to car-
it was fine and crafty, and not so danunge aine.

Beware the Cat.

whores
gaining
and good
hostices,
make ma-
nygentle-
me make
shamefull
shifts.

rous, as deceitful. For when she had so-
ked from yung Gentlemen all that they
had: then would she cast them of except
they fell to chering. Wherefore many of
the in the night time would goe abode,
and bring the next morning home with
me make them sometimes money, sometime Je-
wels, as ringes or chaines, sometime ap-
parel, and sometime they would come a-
gain cursing their ill fortune, with no-
thing saue peradventure dye blowes or

Allisfish
that come
to net.

wet wounds, but whatsoeuer they brought
my dame would take it, and finde the
meanes either so to gage it y she would
neuer fetch it again: or els melt it & sel it
to y Goldsmithes. And not withstanding
that she bled these wicked practises: yet

A catho-
lik quean.

was she very holy and religious, & ther-
fore although that all Images were for-
bidden: yet kept she one of our Lady in
her cofer and euery night when euery bo-
dy were gone to bed, & none in her chaū-
ber but she and I, then would she fetch
her out, and set her vpon her Cupboarde
and light by two or thre wax candels be

Images cā
not see to
hear with
out light,

fore her, and then knoele down to her,
sometime an hole houre saying ouer
her bedes, and praying her to be good vn-
to her, and to saue her and all her geasts
bothe

The third parte of

bothe from daunger and shame, and promising that then shee would honoꝝ and serue her during all her life. While I was with this woman: I was alway much cherished and made of, for on nights while she was praying: I would bee playing with her bedes, and alway catch them as she let them fall, & would sometime put my head in the compas of them, and run away with them about my neck, wherat many times she took great pleasure, yea and so did our Lady too. For my dame would say sometimes to her, yea blessed Lady, I knowe thou hearest me by thy smiling at my Cat. And neuer did my dame doe me any hurt saue once, and that I was euen with her for, and y was thus. There was a gentle man one of her bouders much enamored in y beauty of a marchāt mans wife in the Citie, whom he could by no meēs perswade to satisfie his lust, yea when hee made her great banquets, offred her rich apparel, & all kinde of Jewels pretious which cōmonly womē delight in yea and large sūmes of money which corrupte, euen the Gods them selues: yet could he by no means alter her mīde, so much she esteēmed her good name and honesty.

Wherfore

Our Lady
is hired to
play the
baud,
olde wo
mē loue
their cats.

the Image
laughed
to see the
Cat play
with her
dames
beades.

Loue is loi
terers oc
cupation.

An honest
wife.

Quid non
mortalia
Pectora
cogis, au
ri sacra
fames.

The third parte of

All is not
golde that
glistereth.

Mustard
purgeth
the head,
and pep-
per makes
one neede.

Women
are glori⁹.

Wherefore forced through desire of that which he could not but long for, & so much the more, because it was most earnestly denied him: he brake his minde to my dame, and intreated her to aid him to win this yung womans favour, and promised her for her labour whatsoener she would require. Whereupon my dame which was taken for as honest a woman as any in the Citie, found the meane to desire this yung woman to a dinner, & against she should come: my dame gave me a peece of a pudding which she had filled full of mustard. Which as soon as I had eaten, wrought so in my head that it made mine eyes run all the day after, & to mend this: she blew pepper in my nose to make me neede. And when the yung wife was come, after that my dame had shewed her all the comodities of her house (for women delight much to shew forth what they haue) they set them down together at the table, none save only they two, and while they were in gossips talk about the behauiours of this woman, and that I came as I was accustomed and sate by my dame. And when the yung woman hearing me cough and seeing me weep continually: asked what I ayled, my dame

Beware the Cat.

dame, who had teares at her cōmaunde-
ment sighd, & fallen as it were in a so-
daine dump, bcast forth in weeping and
said. In faith maistres I think I am the
infortunistest woman alive, vpon whom
God hath at once powred forth all his
plagues, for my husband the honestest
man that liued, he hath taken from me,
and with him mine heire & onely sonne,
the most towardly yung man that was
alive, and yet not satisfied heer with: loe
heer mine onely daughter which though
I say it: was as faire a woman and as
fortunate married as any in this Citie
he hath (for her honestie or crueltie I can
not tel whether) turned into this likeness
wherin she hath been aboue these two
monethes, continually weeping as you
see, and lamenting her miserable wret-
chednes. The yung woman astonished
at this tale and crediting it, by meanes
of my dames lachrymable proceffations
and deep dissimulation: asked her the
more earnestly how and by what chance,
and for what cause as she thought she
was so altered. Ah (quod my dame) as I
said befoze, I cannot tel what I should
think, whether excuse my daughter and
accuse God: or els blame her and acquite

Women
can weep
when they
wil.

There is
no deceit
the craft
of an olde
baud.

A shame-
ful life sh-
amfully
set forth.

Tears
mooue yu-
ng mides
lightly.

Women
are orators
by nature

Beware the Cat.

All womē
ought a
booue all
things to
esteem the
ir honesty

Sharp
words
and threat
ning an
swers wil
soon cool
hot. Adul
terers.

It is as
much pity
to see a
woman
weep as to
see a goos
go bare-
foot,

him. For this my daughter being as I
sayd fortunately married, and so beloved
of her husband: and louing again to him
(as now we bothe tolate do, and euer I
think shall rue) was loued exceedingly
of another yung man, who made great
sute and labour vnto her. But she as I
think all womē should, esteeming her ho
nestie and promise made vnto her hus
band the day of their marriage: refused his
desire, but because he was importu
nate: she came at the last and tolde me it
And I thinking that I had don wel: char
ged her in any case, which sul oft since I
hane repented, that she should not consēt
vnto him, but to shake him of wth shrewd
words and thzetting answers. She did
so, alas alas the while, and the yung mā
seeing none other boot: went home & fel
sick, and louing so honestly and secretly,
that he would make none other of his
counsel, forpined and languished vpo his
bed the space of thre daies, receiuing nei
ther meat nor drink, and then perceiuing
his death to apzoche: he wrote a letter
which I hane in my purse, and set it by
his boy to my daughter, if you can read
you shall see it, I canot but my daughter
her could very wel, and write to, Her
with

The third parte of

with my dame wept apace, and took the letter and gaue it this yung woman who red it in foze me solowing.

The nameles louer to the nameles be looued/ in whose loone sith hemay not lue he desireth licence to dye.

Cursed be the woful time wherein mutual loue first mixed the masse of my miserable carcasle. Cursed be the houre that euer the satall destinies haue ought for me purceyed. Yes cursed be þ vnhappy houre, may I say, in which I first saw those per sing eyes, which by insencible and vnquenchable power inflaming my hart to desire, are so blide of al mercy, as wil rather with rigoz consume my life: then rue my grief with one drop of pitie. I lue not to you my déer vnla- wing loue for any kind of grace the dout- ful hope wherof dispaire hath long since (with þ polwring showezs of cruel word) utterly quenched. But this mache I de- sire which also by right me thinketh my faithfull loue hath wel deserued that sith your fidelitie in wedlock (which I can and must nédes praise as would to God I could not) wil suffer my pined coze no longer to retain the bzeithrough colde cares wholly consumed: yet at the last

C. ij.

which

The second parte of

which is also an office of friendship before
the Gods meritorious. Can visit him
who if ought might quench loue, should
not loue, whose mouth these three dayes
hath taken no fode, whose eyes the like
time haue taken no rest, whose hart thes
three wêkes was neuer mery, whose
minde these three monethes was neuer
quiet, whose bed these seven nights was
neuer made: and who (to be brief) is
in all partes so infæbled: that liuing he
dieth, and dead a while he lieth.
And whē this sly ghoste shall leaue this
cruel and miserable prison, in recom-
pence of his loue, life and death: let those
white and tender hands of yours, close
vp those open windowes, through
which the vncomfortable light of your
beauty shone first into his hart. If you re-
fuse this to doe: I beseech the Gods im-
mortall, to whom immediately I goe,
that as without any kinde of ether loue
or kindenes, you haue caused me to dye:
so that none other caught with your beau-
ty, doe likewise perishe, I beseech (I say)
the iust Gods, that either they chaunge
that honest stony hart or els disfigure that
faire merciles fauour. Thus for want of
force either to indite or write any more,
I

Beware the Cat.

I take my leave, desiring you either to
cōe and see me dye, or if I be dead before
to see me honestly buried.

Yours vnregarded aliue. G. S.



Whe the yung woman had read
this letter: she took it again to
my dāe, & with much to doe to
with holpe her swelling tears

A tender
hart is easi
ly parted.

she said, I am soze for your heuines much
more for this mans, but moste for your
daughters, but what did shee after shee
saw this letter? Ah (quoth my dame) shee
esteemed it as she did his lutes before she
sent him a rough answere in wryting.

Womans
answers
are neuer
to seeke,

But ere ever the boy came home with it
his maister was dead. Within two
dayes after my sonne in law her husbād
died sudainly, and within two dayes af-
ter as she sate heer with me lamenting
his death: a voice cried a lowd, ah flinty
hart repent thy crueltie, and immediatly
(oh extreme rigo?) she was chaunged as

Note the
craft of a
Baud.

you now see her. Whereupon I gather
that though God would haue vs keepe our
saith to our husbands yet rather then any
other should dye for our sakes we should
not make any conscience to saue their
lines. For it saureth in this poit as it doth

¶

in

Beware the Cat.

All extre- all other, for as all extremitiees are vices &
mities are so it is a vice as appeareth plainly by the
to be for- punishment of my daughter to be to ex-
saken. trem in honesty, chastety or any other

Euil com- kinde of vertue. This with the talke of
municatio my dame in the diner time so sank it to
confound, the yung womans minde: that the same
deth good after noon she sent for the gentleman
vertues, whom she had erst so constantly refused,
and promised him y if he would appoint
her any vn suspected place: she would be
glad to meet him to fulfil all his lust,
which he appointed to be the next day at
my dames house, where when they wer
all assembled: I minding to acquite my
dame for giuing me mustard: caught a
quick mouse, wherof my dame alwaies
was exceedingly a fraid, and came with
it vnder her clothes, and there let it goe,
which immediatly crope vp vpon her leg
But Lord how she bestired her thf, how
she cried out, & how pale shee looked, and
I to amed the matter making as though
I leaped at the mouse: all to bescrat her
thies and her belly, so that I dare say she
was not whole agai in ftwo monethes af-
ter, and when the yung womā to whom
at wil hurt she shewed her poned thies, said I was
her mother an vnnaturall daughter to deale so with
my

Cats are
malicio-
ous.

Women
are a fraid
of their
owne sha-
dowes.

The Cat
payeth her
dame for
her mu-
stard.

It is an yn-
naturall

Child the-
ter, and when the yung womā to whom
at wil hurt she shewed her poned thies, said I was
her mother an vnnaturall daughter to deale so with
my

The third parte of

my mother nay (quoth she) I cannot bla-
her, for it was through my counsel that
she suffered this sorrow, and yet I dare
say she did it against her will, thinking to
haue caught the mouse, which els I dare
say would haue crept into my bellie. By
this meanes was this innoēt woman o-
ther wise inuincible: brought to cōst whoz
dome. Shortly after this yung woman
begged me of my dāe, and to her I wēt
and dwelled with her all that yēer. In
which yēer, as all y cats in the parish can
mōg thē, tel, I neuer disobeyed oz transgressed our
holy law refusing the conceiscentiall ey keep be
company of any Cat noz the act of gene-
ratio although sometimes, it were moze
painful to me then plesant, if it were
offered in due and conuenient time. In
dēd I confesse I refused Cachrat: & bit
him and scrat him, which our law forbid
deth. For on a time this yēer whē I was
great with kitling; which he of a proud
stomack refused to help to get: although
I earnestly wooed him therto what time
beloued so much his owne daughter Slick-
skin y all other seemed vile in his sight, th.
which also esteemed him as much as hee
did the rest, that is neuer a whit. In this
time (I say) when I was great with kit
ling kitten.

Let yung
Women
take heed
of elde-
baudes.

Cats haue
lawes a-
mong thē,
which the
we
keep ours

He that
pispiseth
those that
looue him
shal be dis-
pised of
them that
he looue
th. Cats

long
they
With

The third parte

ling, I found him in a gutter eating of a
Bat, which he had caught that evening
and as you knowe, not only we but also
There be churles as women in our case do oft long for many
mong cats things: so I then longed for a peece of
aswel as a. Kermouse, and desired him for sauing of
mong chri my kitten: to giue me a mozsel, although
stian folke it were but of the letherlike wing. But
It is the he like an vnnaturall rauenous churle:
confeit of eat it all vp, and would giue me none.
a thing, And as men doe now a days to their wi
and not ues, he gaue me bitter words, saing, we
the thing longed for wantonnes & not for any need
it self that This grieved me so sore, cheefly for
is longed the lack of that I longed for: that I was
for. sick two dayes after, and had it not ben
for good dame Ilegrim, who brought me
a peece of a mouse, and made me beleue
it was of a back: I had lost my burden,
by kitning tenne dayes befoze my time.
When I was reconered & went abrode
again about thzee dayes: this cruel churl
met me, & needs would be doing with
me to whē whē I had made answere ac
cording to his desert & tolde him withall
which he might see to by my belly what
cace I was in. Thus there was no reme
dy, I think he had eaten sauery, but for
all y I could say: he would haue his wil,

Charles
must be
churlishly
serued.

Sauery is
a hot herb
prouckig
lust in
cats.

Beware the Cat

I ſaying that and that he would rauſh
me perforce I cryed out for help as lowd
as euer I could ſqualle, & to defend my ſelf
til ſuccour came: I ſcrat and bit as hard
as euer I could & this notwithstanding had
not I ſegrim, & her ſonne Lightfoot cōe
y ſoner (who bothe are hēr & can witnes
he would haue marred me quite. Now
whether I might in this caſe reſuſe him
& do as I did w^out breach of our holy la
we which forbiddeth vs females to reſuſe
any males not exceēdig the number of x.
in a night: indge you my Lord, to whom
the interpretation of y^e lawes belongeth
Yes ſurely (q^{uod} Grifard) for in the ij. yēre
of the raigne of Glascaion, at a Court
holden in Catwood, as apēreth in the re
cordes they decreed vpon that exception
forbidding any male in this caſe, to force
any female and that vpon great penalties
But to let this paſſe, wherof we were ſa
tisfied in your purgation the firſt night:
tel vs how you behaued yourſeल् your new
miſtreſſe, and that as brēfly as you can
for loe where Corleonis is almoſt plain
weſt, wherby you knowe the Goblins
houre approcheth. After I was come to
my yung miſtreſſe, quoth Mouſleyer, she
made much of me thinking I had been
my

A law for
adulterie a
nōg cats.

Glascaion
was cheef
Prince
of the cats
after Gry
molochin

After one
a clock at
midnight
the goblin
s go abro
ode, and

Beware the Cat

as soon as
any cock
croweth,
which is
their hour
that is at
three they
retire hōe
ward di-
uers mē de
light in di
uers fond
things. A
Cat was
shooed.
All things
are not
meet for
al kinde
of people.

Naturall
delight ex
pelleth me
lancholy.

The fear
ful are al
waies sus
picious.

mine olde Dames daughter, and many
tales she tolde therof to her gossips. My
Maister also made much of me because I
would take meat in my foot: & therewith
put it to my mouth & feed. In this house
dwelt an vngacious selowe, who deligh
ting much in vnhappy turnes: on a time
took six walnut shels, and filled them ful
of soft Pitch, and put them vpon my
fæt, and thē put my fæt into cold water
till the pitch was hardned, and then he let
me goe. But Lord how strang it was to
me to goe in shoes, & how they vexed me
For when I ran vpo any steep thing they
made me slide & fall down. At her soze
all that after noon, for anger that I could
not get of my shoes: I hid me in a corner
of the garret which was boarded, vnder
which my maister and Mistres lay. And
at night when they were al in bed: I spy
ed a Mouse plating in the flower, & when
I ran at her to catch her: my shoes made
such a noise vpon the boards: that it wa-
ked my Maister who was a man very fe-
arful of sprites. And when he with his ser-
uaunts harkned wel to the noise, which
went pit pat, pit pat, as it had been the
trampling of an horse: they waxed all a-
fraid & said suerly it was y deuil. And as
one

The third parte of

one of the an hardy fellowe, enē he y had
shewed me, came by staires to see what
it was: I went downward to meet him
and made such a ratling, that when hee
saw my glistering eyes: he fel down back
ward, & brake his head crying out y deuill
the deuill, y deuill, which his maister and
all the rest bearing ran naked as they
were into the street, & cryed the same cry
wherupon the neighbours arose & cal-
led by emong other an olde Priest, who
lamented much the lack of holy water,
which they were forbloddē to make, how
beit, he went to church & took out of the
Font some of the Christning water and
took his Chalice and a wafer consecrat
and put on a Surples and his stole about
his neck, & fet out of his chamber a peece
of holy Candle which he had kept two
yēre and heerwith he came to the house
and with his Candle light in the one ha-
nd and a holy water sprickel in the other
hand, and his Chalice & wafer in sight
in his bosome and a pot of fōt water at
his girdle: by he came praling toward
the garret, and all the people after him.
And when I saw this, and thinking I
should haue seen some mas that night
as many nights befoze in other places I
had

The third parte of

Precsts
haue been
good con-
iurers of
such kind
of spirits.

A meetpil
low for a
Magitian

Feare ta-
keth away
the fences

A lyer ad
a doocr of
shrewd
turnes
ought to
haue a
good me-
mory.

had: I ran towards them thiking to meet them. But when the Priest heard mee come, and by a glimling had seen mee: downe he fel vpon the that were behinde him wth his chalice hurt one, with his water pot an other and his holy candle fel into an other Priests breach beneath, who (while the rest were bawsoning me) was colouring our mayd at the staire foot and all to besinged him, for he was so afraid with y^e noyse of the rest which fel: that he had not the power to put it out.

When I saw all this busines: down I ran among the where they lay on heaps but such a fear as they were all in the: I think was neuer seen afore. For the olde priest which was so tumbled among the that his face lay vpon a boyes bare arse, which belike was fallen hedlong vnder him was so astonished: then when the boy (which for feare bespit him self) had al to rayed his face, he neither felt nor smelt it nor remoued from him. Then went I to my dame which lay among y^e rest God knoweth very madly, & some- wed and curled about her, that at last she said I w^en it be my Cat. That hearing the knaue that had shewed me, and calling to minde that erst he had forgot: said it was

Beware the Cat.

was so indeed and nothing els. What hearing the priest, in whose holy breach the holy candel all this while lay burning: he took hart a grace, and before he was sprung rose vp and took the candle in his hand and looked vpon me and al the rest of the company, and fel a laughing at the handsome lying of his selowes face. The rest hearing him: came euery man to him self and arose & looked vpon me and cursed y^e knaue which had shod me, who would in no case be a known of it. This done they got hot water & dissolued the pitch, & plucked of my shoes and then euery man after they desired ech other not to be acknowledged of this nights work for shame departed to their lodgings, and all our household went to bed again.

Whē all y^e Cats and I to for company, had laughed at this apace: Mousleyer proceeded and said.

After this about 14. quarters of a y^eer, which was at whitson tide last, I played another prank, and that was this. The Gentleman who (by mine olde Dames lying and my weeping) was accepted & retained of my mistres, came often home to our house, & alwaies in my Masters absence was doing with my Dame.

Wherefore

One hardy man encourageth many cowards.

Silence is the best friend that shame hath.

The Author laughed in cats voices.

Adulterers are diligent in waiting their time

Beware the Cat.

A wanton
wife and a
back door
wil soon
make a
rich man
poor.

Chaunce
often tim
es detrai
eth euil.

None see
outward
ly follo
wing as
Whores.

Shee bac
cho etce
rere friget
venus.

Wherefore desirous y my maister might knowe it, for they spent his goods so lavishly between them, that not withstanding his great trade of Merchandise: they had but waiting to him almost vnder him already. I sought how I might betwix the which as hap would (at the time remembred) afoze: came to pas thus, while this Gentleman was doing with my dame my Maister came in so suddenly, that he had no leasure to pluck vp his hose, but with them about his legs ran into a corner behinde the painted cloth, and there stood I warrant you as still as a mouse. As soon as my maister came in, his wife according to her olde want: caught him about the neck and kissed him and devised many means to haue got him forth again but he being wery sat down & called for his dinner, and when she saw there was none other remedy: she brought it him which was a mes of potage and a peece of Beef, whereas she & her franiõ had broke their fast with Capõs, hot Venus marrow bones and all other kinde of dainties. I seeing this, and minding to shew my Maister how he was ordered got behind the cloth and to make the man speak I all to pawed him with my claws vpon his

The third parte of

his bare legs and buttocks, & soz all this he stood stil and neuer mooued. But my Maister heard me & thinking I was catching a mouse: bad my dame go help me who knowing what beast was there: came to the cloth, & called me alway saing come pus, come pus, & cast me meat in to the flower. But I minding another thing, & seeing that scratching could not moue him: suddenly I lept vp & caught him by the genitalls with my teeth, and bote so hard, that whē he had restrained moze then I thought any man could: at last he cryed out & caught me by the neck and thinking to haue strangled me. My Maister not smelling but hearing such a Rat as was not wunt to be about suche walles: came to the cloth and lift it vp and there he found this bare arse Gentleman strangling me, who had his stones in my mouth. & whē I saw my maister I let goe my hold, and the Gentleman his and alway I ran immediatly to the place where I now dwel, and neuer came there since so that how they agreed amōg them I cannot tel, noz neuer durst go see, for feare of my life.

Thus haue I tolde you my good Lords all things that haue been don and hapned
th;ough

The third parte of

There be

false accusers among all kind of creatures.

Justices should cherish the innocents accused.

Trouaile and watching make the sound sleeping Cats are in questitiu of newes.

Mousleier was Six yere olde.

through me wherin you perceiue my loyaltie and obedience to all good lawes and how shamelesly and falsely I am accused for a transgressor, and I pray you as you haue perceined: so certesie my lerge great Camoloch (whose life both Hagat & Heg preserve (of my behantoz when Grisard, Iscgrim and Poylnoer the commissioners had herd this declaratiō, and request of Mousleyer: they praised her much. And after that they had commaunded her with all the Cats there to be on Saint Katherins day next insuing at Catnes, wheras the say Camoloch would holde his court they departed & I glad to haue herd that I herd, and sorry that I had not vnderstand what was said the other two nights befoze: got me to my bed & slept agood. And the next morning when I went out into the garden: I heard a strange Cat ask of our Cat what Mousleyer had don befoze the commissioners those thre nights To whom our cat answered, that she had purged her self of a crime that was laid to her charge by Cachrat, & declared her whole life for vij. yeres space wherfoze in y first two yers as we said: (said she) she had b. paster, a prest, a Baker, a Lawyer,

Beware the Cat

a Broker and a Butcher, all whose plying
deceits which she had seen: she declared
the first night, In the next two yeeres she
had seuen maisters, a Bishop, a Knight,
a Apothecarie, a Goldsmith, an Usurer,
an Alchymist, and a Lord, whose cruelty
knewe craft, cunning, niggrishnes, folly,
waste and oppression: she declared the se-
cond night, wherein this thing was nota-
ble, Because the knight hauing a false
Lady to his wife, gave his minde somad-
to his book that he seldome lay with her.
This Cat plying her Mistres, and muni-
ding to fray him from lying alone, on a
night when her Maister lay from her got
to his mouth, and drie to his bzeeth, that
she almost stifled him. A litle parte she
played with the Usurer, who being rich
e petting miserably e fainting him paze
she got one day while his treasure Chest
stood open, and bid her therein, wherof he
not knowing: lockt her in it. And whe at
night he came thither again and heard
one stirring there, e thinking it had been
the Deuil: he called the Priest and many
other persones to come and help him to
confure, and when (in their sight) he opē-
ned his chest: out lept she, and they sawe
what riches he had, and ceased him ther

Cats chaun-
ge their
dwellings
often.

Men ougt
to ly vvith
their vvif-
ues.

A nigard
is nether
good to
him self
nor to a-
ny other.

The deuil
delighteth
to dvvel a
mōg mor
ny.

The third parte of

after. As for what was don and said ye-
ster night, bothe of my Lord Grisards be-
All in this to adventure, & of Adouleyers bestowe,
book is ing her other two last yeres, which is
no thig in nothing in comparisson of any of y other
cōparisson two yeres befoze. I need not tel you, for
of that the you were present and heard it your self.
Cat tolde afore. This talke too I heard betwixen these
two cats, and the I got me in, and brake
my fast with bread and butter, & dined
at noon with common meat, which so re-
Grose me ates make grose wits pleted my head again, and my other pow-
ers in the first digestion, that by night
time: they were as grose as ever they
were befoze. For the I harkned at night
to other two cats which as I perceiued
by their lectures, spake of y same matter
I vnderstood neuer a word. As her hane
I tolde you al, chiefly you my Lord a wi-
derfull matter, and yet as vncredible as
it is wonderful, notwithstanding when I
may hane convenient time: I will tel you
other things which these eyes of mine
haue seen, and these eares of mine haue
heard, and that of misteries so far passig
this: that all which I haue said now shall
in comparisson therof, be nothing at all
to be belueued. In y meã while I will pray
you to help to get me some money to co-
uay

Beware the Cat.

say me on my journey to Cathenes, for
I haue been going thither these five
yeeres, and neuer was able to perfozme
my journey. When Master Ferris had
promised that he would: every man

that by his they windowes,

which the forsaide talke

kept open two houres

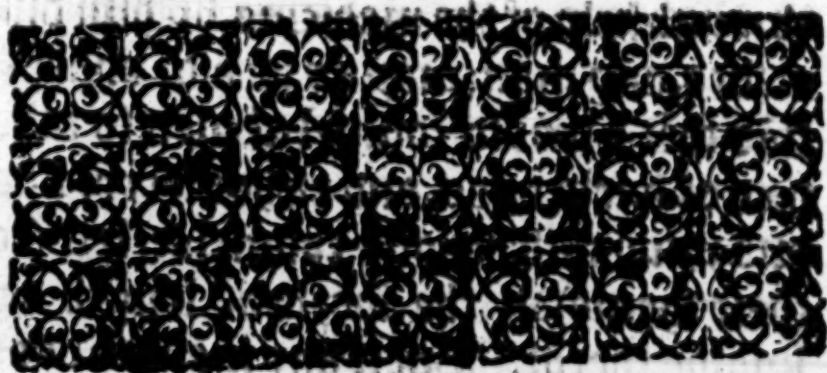
longer the they

should haue

been.

Pouertie
hindreth
many ex-
cellent at-
tempts.

¶



An Exhortation.

I knowe these things wil seeme
mercurious to many men,
that Cats should vnderstand
and speak, haue a gouernour
among them selues, and be obedient to
their Lawes; and were it not for the ap-
proued authoritie of the Ecclesiasticall Au-
thor of whom I heard it: I should my self
be as doubtful as they. But seeing I know
the place and the persons with whom he
talked of these matters, before he expe-
rimented his wonderful and strange con-
fessions: I am y^e lesse doubtful of any tru-
eth therein. Wherefore seeing he hath in
his oratiō proued that cats doe vnderstand
vs and mark our secret doings, and so
declare them among them selues, that
through help of the medicins by him dis-
cribed, any man (may as he did) vnder-
stand the: I would counsel al men to take
heed of wickednes, and eschue secret sins
and priuy mischeuous counsels: lest (to
their shame) all the world at length doe
knowe therof. But if any man for doubt
heerof, doe put away his Cat: then shall
his so doing testifie his secret noughty li-
uig, to be lesse moze a shamed his cat sho-
uld see: then God and his Angels, who see,
mark and beholde all mens closest doings.
And

An Exhortation.

And that we may take profit by this declaratio of Maister Streamer: let vs to knowe bothe openly and priuely that neither our owne cat, admitted to all secrets: be able to declare ought of vs to the world save y what is laudable and honest. For the Devils cat which tell we by all we: seeth and writeth all our ill doings, haue ought to lay against vs afore the face of God, who not onely tell the same but reuerlastig torment, will punish all sinne and wickednes. And euer when y goest abroad any thing: call to mind this prouerb Beware the Cat, not to tye up thy Cat till thou haue done: but to see whether thine owne nor the Devils cat (which cannot be tied up) finde any thing therein wherof to accuse thee to thy shame.

Thus doing thou canst not be amiss but shalt haue such good reporte through thy Cats declaration: that thou shalt in recompence of maister Streamers labour

whoe giueth thee this war-

ning, sing vnto God this

Hymne of his ma-

king.

The

The Himne,

Who givest wit to Whales, to Wpes, to Woles:
And kindly speech, to fish, to fild, to fowles.
And spirit to men in soule and body cleue:
To mark and knowe what other creatures mean

Which hast given grace to Gregory no Pope:
No King, no Lord, whose treasures are their hope
But thy preest, which like a Streamer issues:
In ghostly good, despite of foolish knaves.

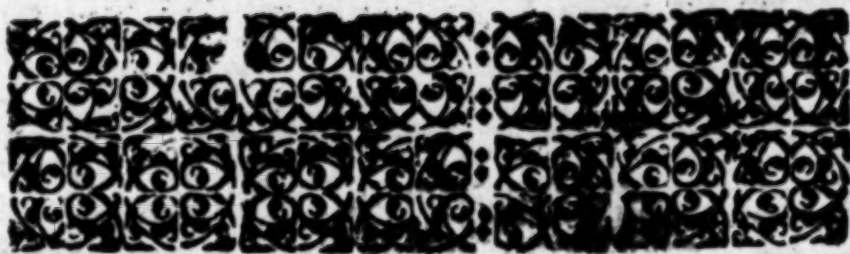
Which hast (I say) given grace to him to knowe:
The course of things above and heer belowe.
With skill so great in languages and things:
As never bredde from Schylders langes.

To whom the hunter of birds, of rafe and rafe:
Did speak as plain as hate that thumeth hate.
By meane of whome is openly bewrayed:
Such things as cloely were bothe doon and said.

To him graunt Lord with helthy welth and rest;
Long life to vnlode to vs his learned best.
With fame so great to ourselfe highte out:
As none was euer, nor any after houre.



The



Imprinted at

*London at the long Shop ad-
ioyning vnto Saint Mil-
dreds Church in the Pul-
trie by Edward
Alde.*

1584.

